Simplification of procedure for issue for passports

*54. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to simplify the procedures regarding passport applications and to dispense with police verification process;

(b) whether Government are considering new innovations to make the system efficient and effective, if so, what are the details thereof.

(c) what are the major areas of complaints at present and the remedial measures proposed to be taken to remove them; and

(d) whether computerisation of passport issuance is thought of to improve the quality of service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) It is not proposed to dispense with the Police Verification process while streamlining passport procedures,

(b) Yes, Sir, Computerization and streamlining of Passport Offices have been decided. Printing of application forms has been decentralized. Police authorities are reminded frequently to expedite their reports,

(c) There are no major complaints. Sometimes, delay in issue of passports is reported. Streamlining of Passport Offices and frequent reminders to police authorities have been undertaken

(d) Yes, Sir.

Defence build up along Jammu and Kashmir border

*55. SHRI LP. GOYAL:

SHRI SHARAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the building up new 'Defence Channels' by Pakistan and establishing of many observation towers with American surveillance equipment along the international border in Jammu and Kashmir in violation of the ground rules;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has refused to recognise any international border in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C PANT): (a) Government are aware that Pakistan a ditch-cum-bund system of obstacles as part of its defence strategy since the 1965 war, as well as a number of observation towers along the India-Pakistan border, primarily used for surveillance of the border. Government have no confirmed information to suggest that the surveillance equipment they use is of US origin.

(b) Both India and Pakistan have agreed on the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, as signed by the military commanders of the two sides in December 1972. In her official maps, however, Pakistan continues to depict the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory

(c) Government keep a constant watch on all developments which have a bearing on our national security and take appropriate measures to ensure full defence preparedness.

Setting up of two 440 WM atmok powei Units

*56. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 652 given in the Rajya' Sabha on 12th November, 1987 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision on the setting up of two